

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 03077 241533Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 PM-05 SP-02 L-03
INR-10 /071 W

-----018439 241544Z /53

O R 241517Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3516
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 03077

CAPE TOWN FOR AMBASSADOR FROM: DICK MOOSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: MOOSE'S PLANS

THE BASIC REASON WHY I AM NOT COMING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA (AND LAGOS) NOW IS THAT WE AND THE BRITISH ARE AS YET UNABLE TO AGREE ON HOW WE SHOULD RELATE TO THE FRONT LINE AND THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AT THIS JUNCTURE. THE BRITISH ARE NERVOUS ABOUT THEIR ELECTORATE AND THEREFORE RELUCTANT EITHER TO JOIN US ON A TOUR OR SEE US PROCEED ALONE. WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WE HOPE TO WORK OUT INSTRUCTIONS FOR JOINT, HOLDING-ACTION APPROACHES BY US-UK AMBASSADORS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN THE DIALOGUE ON RHODESIA WHILE SEEKING FRONT LINE REACTIONS TO "NEW REALITIES."

2. OWEN HAS PULLED BACK FROM HIS PRECIPITOUS IMPULSE
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PAGE 02 LONDON 03077 241533Z

TO MAKE SALISBURY THE SOLE FOCUS OF HIS ENERGIES. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS STILL GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO PERSUADE HIM TO DEVOTE SAME EFFORT TO WHAT HE TENDS TO REGARD AS A RISKY (IN SEVERAL SENSES) AND/OR FUTILE EFFORT TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THE FRONT LINE AND PATRIOTIC FRONT.

3. I HOPE THAT WE CAN SOON GIVE YOU GUIDANCE ADEQUATE TO ENABLE YOU TO COPE IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES. I MUST ADMIT THAT FOR A TIME I WAS ATTRACTED BY THE ARGUMENT THAT ONLY AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE WITH WASHINGTON INSIGHTS COULD HOPE TO COMMUNICATE ADEQUATELY WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. ON REFLECTION, HOWEVER, I CAME BACK TO THE TRADITIONALIST VIEW THAT ONE SHOULD RELY ON AMBASSADORS RATHER THAN WASHINGTON EMISSARIES AT TIMES SUCH AS THIS. MY ENORMOUS PERSONAL CONFIDENCE IN EACH OF YOU MADE THIS DECISION EASIER.

BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH, NI, XA, (MOOSE, RICHARD M)
To: DAR ES SALAAM LUSAKA
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